1764. Erchfont. Flagon
„ Corsham. Flagon (given recently).
1766. Patney. Flagon.
1768. Parish Church Chippenham. Two chalices, two flagons, and two salver patens.
1768. Chisledon. Paten.
1771. Sevenhampton. Chalice, paten, almsdish, and flagon.
1774. Berwick Bassett. Chalice and paten cover.
„ Castle Combe. Two patens (salvers on three legs).
„ Colerne. Two-handled cup and cover and paten.
1775. Castle Combe. Chalice and cover.
1781. Fifield. Almsdish (given 1833).
1782. Broadtown. Paten (given 1843).
1784. Keevil. Two chalices (given 1840).
1789. St. Mary's Devizes. Two chalices, two patens, and flagon.
1790? ManningfordAbbotts. Flagon (uncertain).
1791. Kington St. Michael. Paten cover of Elizabethan cup.
1793. Marston Maisey. Paten.
1795. Langley Fitzurse. Chalice (given 1858).
1799. Grittleton. Chalice.

In Memoriam John Edward Jackson, F.S.A., Hon. Canon of Bristol.

ON Friday evening, March 6th, 1891, at the Rectory, Leigh Delamere, died John Edward Jackson, Rector of Leigh Delamere and Norton, Honorary Canon of Bristol, and F.S.A. He had reached the great age of eighty-five, and his death was not unexpected, for his strength had been slowly failing for many months and for some time past approaching paralysis had deprived him of the power of writing. But none the less does his death leave a grievous gap in the ranks of the Wilts Archæological Society, as well as in the singularly large and varied circle of his private friends, which cannot be filled by anyone else.

He was indeed *sui generis*, for the immense stores of local information and learning that he possessed were not more remarkable

than the talent—for it was nothing less—with which he presented the matured results of his investigations in a form acceptable not merely to the antiquary but to the general public.

He was not a Wiltshireman by birth, having been born at Doncaster in 1805. He was educated at Charterhouse and Brasenose College, Oxford, where he took his degree—second class in *Lit. Hum.*—in 1827; and his first curacy was that of Farleigh Hungerford, to which he was ordained in 1834.

In 1845, however, he became—to the great advantage of our county—a Wiltshireman by residence, being presented by the late Mr. Joseph Neeld to the rectory of Leigh Delamere, and in the following year to the vicarage of Norton, which he continued to hold with Leigh Delamere until his death.

In his earlier life he had paid much attention to the study of geology, and the collection of fossils which he then formed he has left by will to the Society's Museum; but in later days the absorbing interests of family and county history and topography occupied the greater part of his leisure time and thoughts. It was to these subjects that the best years of his life were devoted, and it was in these, rather than in art, natural history, or archæology strictly speaking, that he specially excelled.

It is characteristic of the power, or rather, perhaps, of the instinct which he possessed of completely identifying himself with the *genius loci* of the locality on which his attention happened to be fixed for the time that the years of his residence at Farleigh Hungerford were marked by what he himself spoke of as his "Hungerford mania"—a mania which bore fruit in a series of portly folio volumes of MSS., containing an enormous mass of information on the fortunes of that once widespread and important family, and on the historical events with which the various members of it were connected,—information which it is much to be regretted has never been given to the world.

With this faculty of concentrating his powers on the history of his "environment" it is not to be wondered at that having settled down at Leigh Delamere he should have at once set to work at the task of collecting materials for the elucidation of the past history

of the county in which his lot was cast. The manner in which those materials were collected was characteristic of the man. Nothing connected with Wiltshire in the past came amiss to him—a bit of family history—a monumental inscription—a discovery of Roman remains—an entry in an ancient deed or will—or the mention of some interesting event in a local paper—he might have had at the moment no intention of writing anything about the particular parish or district with which any of these things were connected, but still it might come in useful some day, and accordingly a note was made of it on half-a-sheet of note paper, the white side of a circular, or the back of an envelope, and was carefully deposited in the particular portfolio devoted to that particular parish or district, so that at any moment he could refer to all the odd scraps of information available for any special locality. (This collection of material, together with other papers bearing on Wiltshire, has since his death been given to the Society of Antiquaries.)

It was this systematic collection and arrangement of materials, carried on for fifty years, that enabled him to delight the Members of our Society year after year, wherever the annual meeting might be, with a constant succession of papers, each of which seemed to deal with the antiquarian history of the immediate locality as though that was the special point on which the Canon's thoughts and investigations had been fixed for the past twelve months. For from the year 1853, when he took a leading part in the first foundation of the Society and became one of its first Secretaries and the Editor of the *Magazine*, up to within the last two years he continued to be the most popular of readers at the Annual Meetings, and the most valued of contributors to the pages of the *Magazine*. The professed antiquarian as well as the less ardent member of the public who had, possibly, after the labours of a long day's excursion, slumbered fitfully through other important business, alike regained the fullest consciousness when Canon Jackson rose to read. He had a way of catching your attention. There was a humorous twinkle in his eye and a turn about the corners of his mouth which made people feel that he had something good to tell them by and bye, and they had better listen carefully or they might lose it; so that

year after year his paper came to be looked on as one of the special treats of the Meeting. Endowed himself with the power of seeing the humorous side of things he used that power to give life to what in other hands—as learned, perhaps, as his own—would have remained to the end nothing but the dry bones of genealogical or topographical research.

Of his published works the most important was, of course, his annotations to the *Topographical Collections of Aubrey*. In this thick volume the results of years of labour and research are contained, the annotations being not only of far greater bulk but also of greater value than the text on which they are based. But his other monographs and papers, which may be found in every volume of the *Magazine*, as well as those which—like the History of Grittleton and of the two Churches of St. Mary's and St. George's, Doncaster—were published separately, were one and all of them really valuable, the greater number of them complete in themselves and containing all the information which could be brought to bear upon the subject in hand. Much of his most valuable matter he gleaned from the MSS., deeds, and documents hidden in the libraries and muniment rooms of the great houses of the county, notably from those of Longleat, among which he was often at work; some of the most interesting of his communications to the *Magazine* being founded on materials disinterred from that storehouse of valuable documents.

It has often been regretted that he did not undertake that task which still awaits fulfilment, the writing of the History of Wiltshire—and he was, perhaps, the only man of the present time who could have done it. But the time for it was scarcely ripe, the materials were not ready to his hand, and he spent his life in gathering and sifting the facts with which the future historian of the county must build his history. He had a horror of doing anything incompletely or inaccurately. When he excused himself from reading a paper at the Devizes Meeting last year, it was on the plea that he had so many things to finish up and put in order that he could not now undertake any fresh work; and only a few months before his death he said, looking at the volumes of Hungerfordiana,

"They represent a good many years of my life—I have worked hard in my time"; and then, as he spoke of his increasing weakness, he said, "I should like to have had another ten years of life, I think I could have *finished* a good many things then." He had worked to the last, and when the end came he passed away honoured and beloved by all who knew him, not merely for his knowledge and his learning, but for the genuine goodness of his heart and the singular charm of his private character,—the genial kindness and quaint humour which made him no less delightful as a companion in private life than he was as a lecturer upon the public platform. By his personal friends—and perhaps few men could number friends in so many and diverse ranks and conditions of life as he could,—by his neighbours, even by those who knew him only from his appearance at our Annual Meetings, he was alike spoken of as "the dear old Canon." He was, indeed, one of the few of whom it may truly be said that it was a privilege to have known him, as he is one of the few, too, who will leave an enduring name behind him in the antiquarian world—a name that will rank for the future with the goodly company of Wiltshire antiquaries, with Aubrey and Hoare Philips and Britton, if it does not in the opinion of posterity rank first among them all as that of the man who has done most for the unravelling of Wiltshire history.

E. H. G.

"Recent Occurrence of the Great Bustard in Wilts."

By the Rev. A. C. Smith.

AT the end of January, 1891, twenty years had elapsed since the latest visit of the Great Bustard to Wiltshire, and not a straggler to its old haunts in this county had been seen since the memorable incursion of these birds to the British Isles of 1871,